

Wednesday November 4, 2015, @ 7:00 PM
Hacienda Heights Community Center
1234 Valencia Ave. Hacienda Heights

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the community about DPW's plans to remove dead palm trees from the median on Hacienda Blvd., and to discuss new landscaping options for preliminary feedback from the community.

Attendees

- SD4: Angie Valenzuela, SD4 representative
- DPW: James Chon, Julian Garcia, and Daniel Zahid (TNL), and Laren Bunker (RMD)
- Approximately 15 residents

Background

This Landscape Maintenance District Zone 2-34, contains a large-sized median on Hacienda Blvd. from La Monde St to Del Prado Dr. that had over 100 palm trees. Recently, 35 palm trees were removed because they were identified as potential safety risk due to ailing health caused by a number of factors, including the prolonged drought, lack of irrigation system, and disease. Additionally, 56 other palm trees were identified as potential future hazards and will be monitored and eventually removed. This triggered the need to develop a new landscaping plan for the medians.

The Zone was first established as a Park and Recreation District in 1961 and the palm trees were planted in the mid-1960's. A Landscaping and Lighting Act District was overlaid in the same area in 1980 to supplement the taxes collected for landscape maintenance. The current annual assessment of \$27/yr.

Key Points

- The residents were not receptive to the concept of removing the remaining palm trees. They were largely in favor of replacing the dead/removed palm trees with other trees.
- Three different options were presented at the meeting to the resident (see attached photo of the three options).
- There was a lot of vocal support for Option 2 with some revisions suggested by the residents, such revisions included no more palm trees removal, unless is absolutely necessary for safety, and the addition of drought-tolerant trees to replace any removed palms.
- The residents requested that the current condition of the remaining palm trees as well as the criteria that will be used to determine whether or not a tree poses a safety risk be shared with them prior to any more removals. They also asked for improved notification of any work to be done in the zone.
- The residents also asked some general questions about the Landscape Maintenance Districts, such as how it was formed and types of services it provides. DPW answered these questions to their satisfaction.
- DPW informed the community that we are committed to working with them to develop the plans.
- The Hacienda Heights Improvement Association (HHIA) asked to have a representative present at their next scheduled meeting on November 16..

Next Steps

- TNL will work to modify Option 2 with the recommendations provided by the community.
- A more refined cost analysis will be done for Option 2 (and Option 3 to some degree) now that we have received feedback from the community.
- Obtain AED assistance in developing the new plan and preparing design concepts.
- Identify funding sources and schedule for implementation.
- Next meeting will be scheduled in January 2016.